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Title: Need for early implementation of new Railway Projects for which survey work has been completed in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Sir, after the assumption of office by the UPA at the Centre, 580 new line projects have been announced, out of which, for nearly 250 projects, positive survey results were submitted to the Ministry of Railways and they are kept pending for consideration.

One such Railway project, which is pending, is Erode – Palani *via* Dharapuram new Railway line. It connects Chennimalai – Kangayam which are famous for textiles, modern rice mills and made-goods. From these places, rice is exported to various parts of the country and abroad through various modes of transport. Moreover, Chennimalai and Palani are famous abode of Lord Karthik and it attracts lakhs of devotees from within the country and abroad.

Hence, I urge upon the Ministry of Railways to take up Erode – Palani *via* Dharapuram new Railway line project on priority basis. It should be approved as early as possible and necessary funds have to be allocated in the coming Budget for this project.